

What is claimed is:

*Mulai*) 1. A network system comprising:  
a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and  
a controller controlling the terminals via the network;  
at least one of the terminals including an information  
obtaining means for obtaining information on the other terminals  
therefrom, and a transmitting means for transmitting to the  
controller together with information on the at least one terminal  
the obtained information on the other terminals by the  
information obtaining means.

*Sub E1*) 2. The network system defined in claim 1, wherein the  
information on each of the other terminals includes link  
information for identifying the each terminal on the network.

*Mulai*) 3. A network system comprising:  
a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and  
a controller controlling the terminals via the network;  
at least two of the terminals each including an information  
obtaining means for obtaining information on the other terminals  
therefrom, and a transmitting means for transmitting to the  
controller together with information on the each terminal the  
information obtained about the other terminals by the  
information obtaining means;

the controller including a selecting means for selecting one of the at least two terminals, a requesting means for requesting the transmitting means of the terminal selected by the selecting means to transmit to the controller the information on all the interconnected terminals, and a switching means for switching from the selected terminal to the other or another of the at least two terminals.

4. The network system defined in claim 1, further comprising:

an interface interconnecting the at least one terminal and the network;

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5. The network system defined in claim 4, wherein the controller further includes a setting changing means for changing the setting or settings of the terminal transmitting the information to the controller, or of the interface.

6. The network system defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one terminal further includes a memory for storing the information on all the terminals.

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7. The network system defined in claim 1, wherein each of the interconnected terminals is a printer or a scanner.

*subclaim 8*

8. A network system comprising:  
a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network; and  
a control computer controlling the terminals via the network;  
at least one of the terminals including a controller for obtaining information on the other terminals therefrom and transmitting the obtained information on the other terminals together with information on the at least one terminal to the computer.

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9. The network system defined in claim 8, wherein the at least one terminal further includes a memory for storing the information on all the terminals.

10. The network system defined in claim 8, wherein each of the interconnected terminals is a printer or a scanner.

*subclaim 11*

11. A terminal for connecting via a network to a plurality of other terminals, the terminal comprising:  
an information obtaining means for obtaining information on the other terminals therefrom; and  
a transmitting means for transmitting to the network

together with information on the terminal the information obtained about the other terminals by the information obtaining means.

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12. The terminal defined in claim 11, wherein the information on each of the other terminals includes link information for identifying the each terminal on the network.

13. The terminal defined in claim 11, further comprising a memory for storing the information on the other terminals.

14. The terminal defined in claim 11, which is a printer or a scanner.

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15. A process for controlling by means of a controller connected to a network a plurality of terminals connected to the network, the process comprising the steps of:

selecting one of the terminals;  
causing the selected terminal to obtain information on the other terminals; and

causing the selected terminal to transmit the obtained information on the other terminals together with information on the selected terminal to the controller.

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16. The process defined in claim 15, wherein the selected

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terminal is adapted to obtain the information on the other terminals therefrom, and transmit the obtained information on the other terminals together with the information on the selected terminal to the controller.

*and/or*) 17. A recording medium that stores a program for execution by a controller in a network system including a plurality of terminals interconnected via a network and controlled by the controller via the network,

at least two of the terminals being each adapted to obtain information on the other terminals therefrom, and transmit the obtained information on the other terminals together with information on the each terminal to the controller,

the program including the steps of:

selecting one of the at least two terminals; and  
requesting the selected terminal to transmit the information on all the terminals to the controller.

*Sub E1*) 18. The recording medium defined in claim 17, wherein the program further includes the step of switching from the selected terminal to the other or another of the at least two terminals.

19. The recording medium defined in claim 17, wherein the network system further includes an interface interconnecting each of the at least two terminals and the network;

the program further including the step of obtaining information on the interface connected to the selected terminal from the interface when the selected terminal transmits the information on all the terminals to the controller.

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20. The recording medium defined in claim 19, wherein the program further includes the step of changing the setting or settings of the terminal transmitting the information to the controller, or of the interface connected to the terminal.

21. The recording medium defined in claim 17, wherein each of the terminals is a printer or a scanner.

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